

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INT-08 COME-00 SCEM-02 FPC-01

SCI-06 NSF-04 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03

CEA-02 JUSE-00 CIEP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 SPC-03 /131 W

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P R 281310Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1490

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 697

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJ: BC ATTORNEY GENERAL RECOMMENDS REDUCTION IN NATURAL GAS

DELIVERIES TO EL PASO AND APCO.

REF: VANCOUVER 609, 622 AND 642

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CABLE RECEIVED TODAY BY CONGEN FROM
B.C. ATTORNEY GENERAL MACDONALD.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

ENCLOSED IS A TELEGRAM SENT TODAY TO EL PASO AND APCO
WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY WEST COAST TRANSMISSION CO LTD THAT YOU
HAVE NOT PAID THE FULL AMOUNT OF THEIR INVOICE TO YOU FOR GAS
DELIVERED IN NOVEMBER 1973 STOP IT IS OUR VIEW THAT SUCH
ACTION ON YOUR PART CONSTITUTES A BREACH OF WEST COASTS LICENCE
GL41 AND TO CONTINUE TO DELIVER GAS TO YOU PLACES WEST COAST
IN THE UNTENABLE POSITION OF COUNTENANCING SUCH BREACH STOP
THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT CANNOT ALLOW SUCH SITUATION
TO CONTINUE AND ACCORDINGLY WE HAVE TODAY CONTACTED WEST
COAST AND THE NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD AND RECOMMENDED THAT
DELIVERY OF GAS TO YOU BE REDUCED TO THAT VOLUME WHICH YOU HAVE
PAID FOR BEING 53 PERCENT OF YOUR CONTRACT DEMAND STOP IN
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VIEW OF THE POSITION YOU HAVE TAKEN WE SEE LITTLE BENEFIT TO A

FURTHER MEETING BETWEEN THE PARTIES STOP ACCORDINGLY THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 8 1974 IS CANCELLED STOP IT IS TO BE REGRETTED THAT YOU HAVE FAILED TO REPLY TO OUR TELEGRAM OF DECEMBER 19 OFFERING A SOLUTION TO THE GAS SHORTAGE PROBLEM BUT INSTEAD HAVE TAKEN THE UNILATERAL ACTION OF FAILING TO PAY WEST COASTS INVOICE

ALEX MACDOONALD ATTORNEY GENERAL
END TEXT.

3. BC PETROLEUM CHAIRMAN RHODES IN TELECON TODAY SAID MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 8 BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, EL PASO AND APCO WAS FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SOME SORT OF QUOTE FINANCIAL RELIEF UNQUOTE FOR THE COMPANIES CAUSED BY PRICE INCREASE. BECAUSE NEITHER COMPANY HAS PAID PRICE INCREASE NO QUOTE FINANCIAL RELIEF UNQUOTE IS NECESSARY AND BC GOVT BELIEVES MEETING WOULD ONLY BE ATTEMPT TO RENEGOTIATE PRICE.

4. SAME SOURCE SAID WEST COAST TRANSMISSION COMPANY IN MIDDLE AS THEY NOW OWE BC PETROLEUM FOR SHIPMENTS MADE AT NEW PRICE WHILE THEY ARE OWED FOR GAS AT NEW PRICE BY EL PASO AND APCO.
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